

SICK OF EVIL • Week 3: What Are You Going to Do About It?

Daily Briefing • Day 1 of 5 • Not Enough Time

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20a

Sunday's message named the real obstacle to making disciples, and it is not a lack of desire: You do not have enough time. Today we look at what Scripture actually says to do about that. You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I pray that You would help me to make the best use of my time. This world has thrown all kinds of distractions at me, along with all kinds of really incredible opportunities. Help me to know which ones You want me to take and which ones You want me to cut, so that there is space and time in my life to make disciples and do my part in Your Great Commission. God, I pray that You would take my prioritization and use it to bear fruit for Your glory and the good of others around me. I pray these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

You do not have enough time. Not this week, not this year, not in your whole life. Not to be a downer, but there are so many more good, worthwhile, even admirable things you could do with your time than you will ever be able to fit into the time you have left. That is not a failure on your part. It is simply true for every person who has ever lived, including people with far more resources than you have.

Scripture does not respond to this reality by promising you more hours this side of the grave. It tells you to get wiser about the time you have. Ephesians 5:15-16 says, "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." (Notice how that whole "evil" thing connects with the series at large). Wisdom here is not a personality trait. It is biblical knowledge prayerfully applied to decisions you actually make about your calendar, your entertainment, and your recreation.

Jesus often taught using stories called parables to make an unfamiliar spiritual reality accessible. One of those stories details a master going on a long journey. Before he leaves, he gets three of his servants together and entrusts them with different amounts of his money (called "talents"), "to each according to his ability" (Matthew 25:15). A "talent" was an ancient unit of money worth an enormous sum by the standards of the day. However, Jesus is not primarily talking about cash here; He is using the enormous monetary unit to represent any opportunity, asset, or ability you have been given in this life to invest in God's Kingdom. That might include money, resources, and possessions, but also time, abilities, education, connections, relationships, influence, and platform. Anything you have that could either be invested or simply left to sit.

In the parable, two of the servants invest what they were given and successfully double it. The third (who had a warped view of God's character), was given the smallest amount, grows afraid, and buries his portion in the ground rather than risking putting it to work. "Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them" (Matthew 25:19). The two who invested hear the same words: "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21, 23). The one who buried his talent is rebuked, not for *losing* money, but for *doing nothing* with what he was given. When you read, notice the Unfaithful Servant was never judged against the servant who started with more. He was judged against the opportunity he actually had.

READ & MEDITATE

Ephesians 5:15-16

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."

Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21, 24-26

"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away...

¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who

had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ... ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant!'"

Read Ephesians 5:15-16 and notice wisdom is tied directly to how you use time, not just what you believe. Then read the parable and notice the fearful servant was not punished for what he lost. He never risked anything at all.

REFLECT

Reminder: honest introspection and Scripture-informed self-assessment are far more beneficial than self-delusion and wishful thinking.

Sunday's message named disciple-making as the actual solution to the pain evil produces in the world, not a nice add-on to more popular saviors such as money, education, politics, science, or technology.

Do you genuinely see making disciples as a real solution to the pain you see in the world, or does it feel more like a private hobby for hardcore religious people?

Have you ever seriously considered that God is specifically calling you, not just pastors, missionaries, or "super Christians," to be part of His mission to reach people who are far from God with the Gospel?

The servant who buried his talent did not get a second chance to reconsider once the master returned. Neither will you. That's harsh, but real.

If you pictured yourself on your deathbed looking back at how you actually used your time, what commitments or distractions would you regret letting take priority?

Fill in the blank from Matthew 25:21:

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and _____ servant.'" (Matthew 25:21)

**These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.*

Will you be pleased with the account you give God in the assessment He pronounces for how you used your time, talent, treasure, resources, and abilities for His glory and the good of others?

Here's some good news: not all lost time is a hobby you love. Some of it is just static, scrolling, background noise that never actually gives you anything.

Before you consider cutting anything you genuinely enjoy, is there time you could reclaim just by cutting scrolling, TV, social media, or video games you do simply out of habit rather than real life-giving enjoyment?

Where might real intentionality, just paying closer attention to how your time actually goes, uncover meaningful time for serving with your church, without touching a single hobby you actually love?

The two faithful servants did not just feel grateful or honored for the Master entrusting things to them. They actually did something with it before the master returned.

What practical, tangible next step could you take this week to actually invest one of your "talents" instead of just feeling convicted about it?

Name one specific thing, an app to delete, an hour to reclaim, a conversation to set boundaries, that would translate your good intentions into actual action. Do some honest calendar inventory and self-assessment before moving on. If this isn't where you actually struggle, how will you actually live differently because of what you just read?

PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. As we've read, God's ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite Matthew 28:19-20a from memory:
